changed range of cells belongs to;

- identifying the ranges of cells belonging to said set; and

- pasting the content of the buffer in each of identified range of cells belonging to said set.

REMARKS

The specification is amended in three places to provide a correct reference number to the self replication dialog box of FIG. 5B. No new mater is entered.

Claim 4 is amended to correct an obvious typographical error in the word "paste", to overcome the Examiner's objection.

Claim 1 is amended to provide antecedent basis for "content". Support for content is found on page 3 line 27 through page 5 line 29, as well as numerous other places throughout the specification.

Claim 5 is amended to clarify that means for identifying...is stored in said table. Dependent claim 11 has been added to recite the name or address means of claim 5 as originally filed. Support may also be found in the specification, e.g., page 11 line 29.

Claim 7 has been amended to correct for an obvious typographical error in the dependency claim number. Claim 8 has likewise been amended to correct the dependency claim number.

Claim 10 is amended to correct the article preceding "step of removing". Obviously, the recitation of further comprising indicates an additional step and the indefinite article "a" should have been used.

Such amending of claims 1, 5, 7, 8, and 10 overcomes the Examiner's rejection of these claims under 35 U.S.C. 112 and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 1 is also amended above to require that the ranges of cells have different relative addresses. Support is found in the preferred embodiment of FIG. 3B where the ranges of cells associated with, e.g., Quantity and Profit, have different relative addresses (because they are on the same page).

New claim 12 is added. Support is found in claim 1 as originally filed and as amended above. No new matter is added in such amending of claims 1 and 12.

Claims 1 - 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Anderson (U.S. 5,463,724) in view of Barnes, "10 Minute Guide to Windows 3.1,". Applicant does not agree with this rejection and offers the following explanation/argument. The problem addressed by Anderson strongly differs from the problem solved by the present invention. Anderson discloses the grouping of pages, whereby a spreadsheet user can update in a single step multiple cells with the same content, provided that these all have the same relative address within their respective page. This is a very limiting requirement. Anderson assumes implicitly that a collection of pages (the ones belonging to the same group) comprise on each page a cell with a given same relative address, and containing a unique information that can be

specified only once.

For instance, if the pages A to E are grouped together, the
update of cell A:A1 with the value "3.1415926" will result
according to Anderson into the update of the cells B:A1, C:A1,
D:A1, and E:A1, with the same value "3.1415926." The span of
Anderson's scheme only relates to individual pages, and
furthermore his automatic percolation of information can only be
achieved on cells sharing the same relative address.

Furthermore, Anderson's scheme requires filling multiple
cells with the same content, due to the address constraint stated
above. For example, if the content of cell A:A1 is updated as
"B1*C1" (meaning that A:A1 is the product of the two cells
located on its right in the same row), then the cell B:A1 will be
changed into the same content "B1*C1," also specifying that B:A1
is the product of the cells located on its right in the same row.
If the cell B:A2 were to use Anderson's scheme, its updated
content "B1*C1" would incorrectly mean that it is the product of
the cells located on its right but on the row above. Anderson's
scheme is limited to the percolation of 1 cell onto cells on
additional pages sharing the same relative address, resulting in
the same cell content.

The problem solved by Applicant's invention is different in
that it relates to a collection of ranges, without the above
constraints, which can be grouped regardless of the pages these
belong to, and that need to receive contents derived by a copy-
paste operation. Thus, applicant's scheme allows persistent
replication of a given cell onto a collection of cells, the
number of which is virtually unlimited. Innovative means, such
as the use of the self-replication table, address a significantly

wider problem than Anderson and provide a powerful solution. This table explicitly records the links which are established between the different ranges of cells (PSSR) persistently self-replicating range belonging to the same set (PSRS) persistently self-replicating set. Such links are not disclosed in Anderson, simply because the only link required by Anderson is the definition of page grouping. With applicant's invention, the PSSR belonging to a PSRS are not constrained at all in terms of address, so there is a need to record the relevant structure in each PSSR. Furthermore, applicant's innovative method, as shown in FIG. 7, realizes a copy-paste operation automatically, so that in the example given above, the cell B:A2 would receive an updated content of "B2*C2," reflecting, as desired, that it is the product of the two cells located on its right in the same row.

Applicant's claim 1 has been amended to limit the set of ranges of cells to having at least two ranges with different relative addresses, thus unquestionably avoiding the scheme of Anderson. Claim 1 is therefore allowable over Anderson alone and also when combined with Barnes. Such allowance is respectfully requested. New claim 12 is also allowable for the same reason.

Claims 2 - 11 are all dependent directly or indirectly on allowable claim 1 and are therefore allowable.

The Application is deemed in condition for allowance and such action by the Examiner is urged. Should differences remain, however, which do not place one/more of the remaining claims in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to phone the undersigned at the number provided below for the purpose of providing constructive assistance and suggestions in accordance

with M.P.E.P. Sections 707, 707.07(d) and 707.07(j) in order that allowable claims can be presented, thereby placing the application in condition for allowance without further proceedings being necessary.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: _10/28/04_   By: _John Pivnichny_
                               John R. Pivnichny
                               Reg. No. 43,001

Telephone: (607)429-4358
Fax: (607)429-4119